(v) Procedure for project approvals has been streamlined.

(vi) Ministry of Power has been advised to import about 14 million—tonnes of Coal during 2005-06.

As a result of these efforts, the coal production has increased to 382.14 million tonnes in 2004-05 from 359.80 million tonnes in 2003-04 registering a growth of 6.2%.

Procurement norms

1130. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:
SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make it mandatory for State owned public Sector Undertaking under its control to procure equipments from only those manufacturers based in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) whether BSNL and other PSUs under its control have raised certain objections in view of the high competitive market; and

(e) if so, the parity sought by BSNL/MTNL in procurement norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) Indigenous manufacture of telephone equipments is felt desirable with the objective, *inter alia,* of the availability of desired quality/standard products at competitive rates, immediate availability of after-sales services and development of new technologies in the Country. A procurement framework, whereby only vendors who indigenously manufacture (or have definite plans to do so) certain telecom products are alone eligible for procurement is under active consideraton by BSNL and MTNL.

Pricing trends in BPO sector

1131. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether software and service exports from India has registered a 3.5 per cent growth during the last fiscal;

(b) whether this is the highest growth since 2001 to touch $17.2 billion;

(c) whether total software and service revenues grew 32 per cent to $22 billion in 2004-05;

(d) whether according to a survey, the total value of outsourcing to India ($ 17.2 billion in 2004-05) is estimated to be 44 per cent worldwide total;

(e) whether the survey also pointed out that pricing trends in BPO are likely to be susceptible to downward pressure; and

(f) if so, to what extent software exports will give further rise during 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) As per the annual survey of NASSCOM, the Indian IT-ITES (IT Software & Services and IT Enabled Services-BPO) industry has recorded 34.5% growth in exports, clocking revenues of US $17.2 billion in FY 2004-05, as compared with export revenues of US $12.8 billion in 2003-04.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir.

(f) As per this survey, NASSCOM has projected that the India IT-ITES exports are likely to grow by 30-32% during 2005-06 clocking revenues of about US$ 22.5 billion.

Provision of telephone and internet connections to the villages

1132. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has prepared a plan to connect all 6,00,000 plus villages by telephone within two years;

(b) if so, whether it will boost 250 million lines;